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ABSTRACT

The Montgomery County Public Schools system in Maryland has initiated a demonstration project which will administer the released writing exercises from the National Assessment of Educational Progress to a random sample of students aged 13 and 17. This project will be unique in terms of the application of NAEP exercises in a local school district. The objectives of the project pertain to developing the capability of selecting a random and representative sample of students, the preparation of test booklets and manuals using criterion-referenced tests, the training of examiners, the training of scorers, the development of data processing capability for these tests, and preparing reports for the professional staff and for the public. (Author)

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THIS INFORMATION MUST BE SENT TO THE APPROPRIATE DIVISION PROGRAM CHAIRMAN BEFORE JULY 15, 1972.

5. This paper has been prepared as one of three papers that are proposed for a discussion session under Division H, School Evaluation and Program Development. The remaining two papers are being submitted by Lewis Bonney from the San Bernadino District, California, Application of the NAEP Philosophy and Model in San Bernadino City Schools, and by Larry Conaway from the Department of Utilization/Applications in the NAEP office in Denver, Colorado, Some Implications of the National Assessment Model and Data for Local Education.

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Application of NAEP Writing Assessment Procedures in Montgomery County, Maryland

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SUMMARY

Objectives:

For a number of years the Montgomery County Public Schools system has undertaken the development of assessment materials which were matched to instructional goals of the curriculum. Much progress has been made in mathematics, science, and social studies. The school system was a site for a number of the samples selected for the NAEP assessment program. The field representative indicated that a percentage of the items were going to be released for use by local school systems. Since we were moving in this direction, we decided to select the released writing exercises as a demonstration project for school year 1972-73. The State Department of Education has participated in this project because the State of Maryland now has an accountability bill, which was passed in the last legislative session. This legislation requires annual reporting of progress toward an established set of objectives beginning in 1976. This demonstration will be useful then as a means of identifying the kinds of supports needed to administer criterion-referenced assessments as well as the applications which can be made of the resulting data for program modification.

In order to administer the NAEP exercises in writing it is necessary to select a random and representative sample of students for the school system, prepare test administration booklets of the exercises that were released, train examiners who can go into the schools to administer the exercises in a manner like that used by NAEP, train a cadre of people who can score the exercises, using the same scoring criteria, develop a data processing program which treats the responses in the same manner used by NAEP, prepare a report for use by the professional staff in making program modifications, and prepare another report for release to the public. Each of these activities requires a unique set of skills and supporting services. These services are seldom available to most school districts and they would normally need to be developed using existing staff or budgeted as a separate project.

Methods:

The methods used for sampling, preparing packages of exercises, training examiners, training scorers, processing resulting data, preparing the professional report, and preparing the public report will be discussed.

Data Source:

Data will not be available at the time of this report at the AERA Convention. The percentage correct obtained in the national sample by students aged 13 and 17 will be used as a basis for comparison. In addition, a committee of teachers and other staff will develop criteria for making judgments about the resulting data before the exercises are administered in February, 1973. The written reports will deal with the discrepancy between the obtained results and the results of the national sample and the criteria established by the committee.

Conclusions:

The conclusions reached in the report of the demonstration project will be based upon discrepancy between expected performance and actual performance.

Educational or Scientific Importance of the Study:

This demonstration project is likely unique. It will be the first school district that has attempted to administer the NAEP exercises and make judgments about the resulting data. It is one thing to gather data on a national basis and write a report on the implications of the findings. It is quite another to use data of this kind to establish priorities for instruction and planning by a school system. The application of results in this way is certainly needed in addition to those applications which deal with setting national policy for education.

Application of NAEP Writing Assessment Procedures in Montgomery County, Maryland

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